

Walter S. Dunn House
Hoe's Lane, Newton
Piscataway Township, Middlesex County, New Jersey

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of New Jersey

Historic American Buildings Survey
Seymour Williams, A.I.A., District Officer
133 Central Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey

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Walter S. Dunn ^{Farm} House
Hoe's Lane, Newtown
Piscataway Township, Middlesex County, New Jersey

Owner: Walter (S?) Dunn

Date of Erection: 1736

Architect:

Builder:

Present Condition: Fair

Number of Stories: Two for main section
One and one-half for wing
One story frame leanto at each end

Materials of Construction: Foundation - stone, the
framing timbers rest
directly on the ground
with trench foundation
walls built of fieldstone

Exterior walls - frame
construction, large square
edge siding, shiplap, and
hand split shingles

Interior walls - plaster
on brick, and wood parti-
tions

Inside brick chimneys

Roof - gambrel on main
section, pitch on the wing
and flat on the leanto

Historical Data:

The great grandfather of the present owner and the progenitor of the family in this vicinity Asa H. Dunn came into the possession of the property in 1811. He was a carpenter and repaired the building and built an extra kitchen and bedroom on the west elevation. The lines of the house were not changed to any great extent. There is no record which could be checked either through the family or at the Court House as to the year in which this house was erected or who was in possession before 1811. It is thought that the house is about two hundred years old.

The house is the oldest within the locality. The framing timber was sawed from logs; it is hewn oak tennoned and pegged with hand wooden pegs. The exterior walls are of square edge siding, shiplap, and the hand split shingles with both square and rounded ends are nailed to furring strips attached to the siding. The shingles are six to ten inches in width and thirty-five inches in length with a fifteen inch exposure. Originally these shingles were five-eighth inches thick at the end, but they have since become thin; however they are still weather tight. The entrance door is of the old Dutch type.

The interior of the house is typical of the period. There is a very plain stairway to the second floor with a door part way up enclosing it. The rooms open off both sides of the hall; they are large with low ceilings. The partitions on the first floor are wood with lath and plaster; the partitions on the second floor are seven-eighths inch square edge boards nailed to horizontal plates with the joists running vertically. The floor of the house is one and one-eighth inch pine boards, from six to eighteen inches in width. The floor of

the storage room is cement finished; the old floor is brick. The door and window trim is of a plain molded pattern. There is a chair rail around the dining room and a wainscoting around the kitchen of ceiling beams. The house has no baths.

Bibliography:

History of Middlesex County New York,
Lewis Historical Publishing Company,
1921

An article in the Sunday Times New
Brunswick January 7, 1934

Field book and drawings of the survey

Walter C. Paul
Supervising Historian

Approved:

Seymour Williams
SEYMOUR WILLIAMS, A. I. A.
District Officer

Rev. Jan. 26 '37 T.W.